

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-23 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12 and 21 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Hamilton for the courtesies extended to him during the telephone conference on August 14, 2007. During the conference, amendments to Claims 1 and 11 were discussed. Above Claims 1 and 11 are believed to reflect the substance of the conference. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schickerling (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,420).

Claim 20 defines that the cam member is spaced from the clamp such that the cam member functions independently of the clamp.

In Schickerling, the Examiner identifies the cam member as 58. The cam member 58 is positioned underneath the clamp 80, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. The clamp 80 includes face 87 that rides along the cam 58. As was explained to Examiner Hamilton, the cam 58 is always biased by the lever 80 as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. Accordingly, the clamp and cam do not function independently of one another as claimed by Applicants. Thus, the Schickerling reference fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Armstrong.

Applicants have amended Claim 21 to further define that the housing and base portion includes a latch to selectively releasably couple the base portion to the housing in a locked position. This is not illustrated in the Armstrong reference. Armstrong fails to illustrate lateral rails on the housing. Further, Armstrong illustrates a bow shaped member 40 which is attached to the housing which is slidable in the guide 36. This is unlike Applicants' claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 21-23 to be patentably distinct over the Armstrong reference.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Lai (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,709) in view of Schickerling. The Examiner alleges that the combination illustrates Applicants' claims.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 further define the flat planar monolithic one piece carrier to have a first portion and a second portion. The second portion includes a slot with extending lateral walls. The follower rolls on the lateral walls to provide linear motion. As was discussed, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to disclose Applicants' claims. In fact, the combination teaches away from Applicants' claims.

The Lei reference teaches a blade holder 10 secured by fasteners onto the carrier. The Schickerling reference likewise teaches a blade holder 10 which is secured to a carrier or plunger. This is illustrated in column 2, lines 28-36. Schickerling further details a connection of the blade holder assembly 10 with a plunger via a bore and fasteners. This is illustrated in column 2, lines 44-52.

“A reference may be said to teach away when a person of ordinary skill, upon reading the reference, would be discouraged from

following the path set out in the reference or would be lead in a direction diversion from the path that was taken by the Applicant."

See, KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 127 S. Ct. 1727 at 1739-1740 (2007).

Here, the combination of Lai and Schickerling teaches the substitution of one blade holder for another. Schickerling fails to teach one skilled in the art the modification of the plunger or carrier. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would be discouraged from taking Applicants' path. Thus, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to render Applicants' claims obvious.

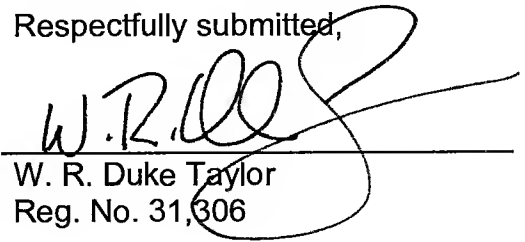
The Examiner has rejected Claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the above combination further in view of Armstrong (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,520). The combination with Armstrong fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Lai and Schickerling combination. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


W. R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
WRDT/lkj